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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/701,048	11/04/2003	Kee Park	5646-581P2	5513
20792	7590	12/15/2004	EXAMINER	
MYERS BIGEL SIBLEY & SAJOVEC			LAM, DAVID	
PO BOX 37428			ART UNIT	
RALEIGH, NC 27627			PAPER NUMBER	
			2818	
DATE MAILED: 12/15/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<p align="center">Office Action Summary</p>	Application No. 10/701,048	Applicant(s) PARK ET AL.	
	Examiner David Lam	Art Unit 2818	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 18-20 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 16 and 17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/03; 3/04</u> . | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____
5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |
|---|--|

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Pre-Amendment

1. This office action is in response to pre-amendment file on 11/4/03.
 - Claims 21-56 have been cancelled.
 - Claims 1-20 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

2. Claim 15 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kongetira (5,936,873).

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Regarding to claim 15, Kongetira discloses a memory device comprising a CAM array (212) having row CAM cells that comprises first and second word line drivers (280) that are electrically coupled to first and second segments of CAM cells (300) in response to first and second control signals (line decode), respectively.

As per above discussion, Kongetira does not explicitly disclose local word line drivers/word line control signals.

However, Kongetira discloses the first and second drivers (280) that are electrically coupled to first and second segments of CAM cells (300) in response to first and second control signals (line decode). *See Fig. 3; Cols 7-10.*

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide first and second local word line drivers/local control signals by utilizing Kongetira's first and second drivers/word line control signals. Since the examiner takes official noted of the equivalence of the first and second local word line drivers/local control signals and Kongetira's first and second drivers/word line control signals for their use in the semiconductor integrated circuit device and the selection of any of these known equivalents to performing electrical coupling between the first and second segments of the CAM cells to first and second local word line drivers in response to local control would be within the level of ordinary skill in the art.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 16-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art of record fails to teach the above note device and wherein the first and second local word line drivers are responsive to a global word line control signal.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claims 1-14, 18-20 are allowable over the prior art of record because none of the prior art whether taken singularly or in combination, especially when these limitations are considered within the specific combination claimed, to teach: an integrated circuit device comprising CAM array, among others as claimed in independent claims 1, 10, that support overlapping search operation that performed across different rows within a group; dual-capture match line signal repeater, among others as claimed in independent claim 13, having input/output that is electrically coupled to first/second match line segment; CAM array, among other as claimed in independent claim 18, arranged in a repeating low-even, low-odd, high-even, high odd sequence; CAM array, among others as claimed in independent claim 19, support segment to segment word search operation by using force to miss control signals. Method of operating the integrated circuit comprising step of using force to miss control signals to establish miss condition on match line of rows are not participating in respective ones of the segment to segment search operation, and among others as claimed in independent claim 20.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David Lam whose telephone number is 571-272-1782. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:00 – 4:30.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Nelms can be reached on 571-272-1787. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

D. Lam

December 8, 2004



DAVID LAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER